

D R A F T  
14 October 1970

Lt. General Donald V. Bennett  
Director  
Defense Intelligence Agency  
Room 3 E 258  
The Pentagon

Dear Don:

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[General Philpott's memorandum of 5 October] recommending several projects as a follow-on to the "Intelligence Planning Guidance for the 1970s" study is much appreciated, and I have requested the National Intelligence Programs Evaluation (NIPE) Staff to give full consideration to the DIA proposals in preparation of its program of actions.

The new version of the CIRIS now being developed should do much to improve the visibility of the current U.S. intelligence as described in paragraph a. of the memorandum. The new CIRIS will display intelligence activities in terms of instrumentalities, functions, targets, and resources--both money and manpower. An effort to draft a statement of intelligence objectives and priorities is being launched, and an inventory of intelligence systems capabilities is planned. Overall, a combination of the CIRIS, the systems

inventory and the statement of intelligence objectives and priorities should provide the tools needed to achieve the objectives oriented overview of intelligence which DIA proposes. It will be of great importance that the operating agencies as well as the resource review offices work closely with the CIRIS staff to insure that the CIRIS is developed along lines that will give it maximum practical usefulness to managers as well as for review exercises.

Problems associated with processing of overhead SIGINT, as cited in paragraph b, are indeed difficult. As you are aware, the proper location for processing and second echelon reporting of SIGINT data collected by ground based equipments has been a subject of debate within the Department of Defense for several years, and the matter becomes even more complex because of technical considerations when overhead collectors are involved. Proposed solutions have thusfar been left quite largely to NSA, but a community interest also is recognized.



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Utilization of overhead systems as part of the means for monitoring compliance with SALT and MBFR agreements (paragraph d of the memorandum) has been included from the beginning in our thinking about these problems. As progress is evidenced in the U.S. /Soviet talks it will be important that the intelligence community insure that its planning for effective use of satellite capabilities keeps pace with the anticipated requirements.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms